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To: Microsoft ATR
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The settlement has done little to protect consumers. One of the original issues was the bundling of MS Internet Explorer into the OS. A browser is not required to control the disk, memory and peripherals of a computer, which is the job of the OS. Fast forward to November 01. MS in attempt to thwart soon-to-be-announced DOJ penalties, releases the latest OS (XP), weeks ahead of schedule through OEM sales, such that it could not easily be recalled. This OS has numerous additional software features built into the OS such as multi-media players, CD burners, etc. These latest inclusions reflect MS blatant attempt to monopolize the PC market and put other software companies out of business. In fact, the settlement offers more PCs and MS software to educational facilities. This will only help MS crack the educational market, one of the last segments that had yet to dominate. The actual cost to MS is virtually nil, the CDs are pressed for mere pennies, yet they can write each off for several hundred dollars. What a joke, again MS is laughing all the way to the bank and the DOJ looks like a weak idiot. MS needs to be broken into a Commercial Software Company and Commercial OS Company. Obviously, MS is resistant to this as the Software Company would have to compete against the OS company which they know is a losing battle. However, the Software Company should win out in the end: if MS Office was released in a Linux form, it would continue to be a best seller. However, it would lose many of its OS customers, which is why MS is the only major computer company that has failed to jump on the Linux bandwagon (even staunchy IBM has thrown serious muscle into the effort). Do your job and protect the consumers from an acknowledged monopoly. The current settlement is weak, pro MS and fails to protect the consumer. God knows XP protects nobody, after being proclaimed the most secure OS ever from MS, the FBI had to issue an alert to warn all citizens of serious security breaches. Bravo